

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 were originally filed in the present application. In the Restriction Requirement mailed February 27, 2003, the Examiner restricted claims 1-63 into the following groups:

- I. Claims 1-14 drawn to a process for making dermal equivalents, classified in class 435, subclass 373;
- II. Claim 15 drawn to a dermal equivalent, classified in class 424, subclass 572;
- III. Claim 16 drawn to a skin equivalent, classified in class 435, subclass 325;
- IV. Claims 17-29 drawn to a process for making a skin equivalent, classified in class 435, subclass 41;
- V. Claims 30-41 drawn to a composition, classified in class 435, subclass 371;
- VI. Claims 42-49 drawn to a composition, classified in class 424, subclass 400; and
- VII. Claims 50-63 drawn to a composition, classified in class 424, subclass 94.1.

(February 27, 2003, Restriction Requirement, pp. 2-4). Applicants herein elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I. Applicants also herein cancel claims 15-63 in order to further their business interests and the prosecution of the present application, yet without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and while preserving the right to prosecute the canceled (or similar) claims in the future.

Claims 1-14 are pending and under examination following entry of Applicants' response to the outstanding Restriction requirement.

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Appendix 1

Pending Claims

1. A process for preparing a seeded dermal equivalent comprising:
 - a. providing a dermal equivalent, keratinocytes, and culture media having an air interface;
 - b. culturing said dermal equivalent in said culture media;
 - c. lifting said dermal equivalent to said air interface to provide a lifted dermal equivalent; and
 - d. seeding said dermal equivalent with said keratinocytes to provide a seeded dermal equivalent.
2. The process of Claim 1, wherein said keratinocytes are selected from the group consisting of primary human keratinocytes and immortalized human keratinocytes.
3. The process of Claim 2, wherein said immortalized keratinocytes are NIKS cells.
4. The process of Claim 1, wherein said dermal equivalent comprises collagen and fibroblasts.
5. The process of Claim 4, wherein said collagen is rat tail tendon collagen.
6. The process of Claim 4, wherein said fibroblasts are NHDF cells.
7. The process of Claim 1, wherein said lifting further comprises incubating said lifted dermal equivalent at said air interface for at least six hours prior to said seeding.
8. The process of Claim 1, wherein said lifting further comprises incubating said lifted dermal equivalent at said air interface for at least twelve hours prior to said seeding.

9. The process of Claim 1, wherein said lifting further comprises incubating said lifted dermal equivalent at said air interface for at least eighteen hours prior to said seeding.
10. The process of Claim 1, wherein said lifting further comprises incubating said lifted dermal equivalent at said air interface for about 24 hours prior to said seeding.
11. The process of Claim 1, wherein said lifting further comprises incubating said lifted dermal equivalent at said air interface for about six hours to about 24 hours prior to said seeding.
12. The process of Claim 1, further comprising step e) incubating said seeded dermal skin equivalent under conditions such that a skin equivalent is formed.
13. The process of Claim 12, wherein said skin equivalent is stratified.
14. The process of Claim 12, wherein said skin equivalent is stratified into squamous epithelia.